



(L-R) Mary Lynn Allen, Diane Bennett, Bob Latham, Kathleen Beaman, Judy Sinkovitz

A critical component of successful transition is the access high school students have to information relevant to higher education expectations and opportunities. Unfortunately, too many students, teachers and parents are unfamiliar with higher education expectations. To facilitate transition from high school into postsecondary education, a Transition Advisor position was developed at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) in 2004. Since then, three additional Transition Advisors have been hired, with three of the four positions based on-site at three select Anne Arundel County Public high schools. The long-term goals of this strategy are to raise awareness of postsecondary programs and resources, decrease the need for remediation, increase student persistence, and increase knowledge of college expectations and processes with high school students, parents, teachers and counselors.

The Transition Advisors utilize outreach strategies including classroom presentations, one-on-one student meetings, *Lunch and Learn* sessions, participation in Parent Information sessions, articles in the school newspapers, job shadowing, membership on the high school Integrated Community Stakeholder Team, and joint professional development opportunities. The Transition Advisors also facilitate increased knowledge of technical careers and opportunities, AACC program pathways, preparation to decrease remediation, and related successful transition strategies.

The primary benefits of this transition strategy have included both the opportunity to build longitudinal educational relationships with students and parents, as well as providing an early opportunity to reinforce 'what it takes to get into college'. During the 2008-2009 academic year, over 3,000 AACPS middle and high school students were reached by AACC Transition Advisors through classroom presentations. Presentations and resources have been uploaded to the AACC program pathways website for use by schools, parents and students. Another transition strategy includes current AACC college students visiting high schools to share their experiences and respond to student questions. At one high school, 65 half-hour individual post-secondary STEM advisement sessions have been conducted and included a review of the 10th grade college preparation checklist, portfolio development, and general discussions relative to student success in STEM pathways. The Transition Advisor at a second STEM magnet school worked with the high school counselors to assist approximately 900 students in entering and updating information in Naviance, an AACPS college and career planning database.

As a result of this successful strategy, Transition Advisors have been integrated into other areas of the college including Hospitality, Travel and Tourism, General Education Development (GED), Adult Basic Skills (ABS), and a number of occupational training areas including Dental Assisting, Phlebotomy Technician and the Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship training program.